

Radio Comix 11765 West Ave PMB #117 San Antonio, TX 78216

Comic Alchemy

by Pat Duke

It's January.

January is a tricky month, to be sure. For comic publishers it's a time to take stock of the last year, examining what worked and what didn't. That sounds pretty reasonable, right? But lots of publishers take it too far. They scrutinize sales numbers like mystic writings, vainly attempting to divine hidden sales patterns from dusty tally sheets in an effort to reveal some arcane secret for the "Perfect Selling Comic." Instead of January truly representing a new start, it's simply become the starting point for remixing last year's tired gimmicks in different quantities, refining their formulae in some sort of bizarre comic alchemy.

You might argue that my point of view is a bit cyncial — and you might be right. There are a lot of amazing comics being made these days and that makes me happy. Unfortunately, not many people are reading them and that makes me unhappy. Last year was particularly brutal for independent creators. I've been in comics long enough to know that the market goes up and down and that's just the nature of the beast. But I've also been in comics long enough to know that fewer and fewer creators can make a living off their work. This honestly grieves me. A lot of friends are dropping comic work for movies, games, or pretty much anything else to put food on the table. They've had it. January, for them, represents a new start of sorts: a career outside comics.

I'm not sure that I have an answer to this problem. I've always subscribed to a "Clean Lawn" policy for problems like this. I can't control the rest of the world, but I can control my own immediate surroundings. If I keep my own lawn clean, that's both a good start and an excellent example for our neighbors. Let's hope they're paying attention.

So, this month I won't be giving you any grandiose plans for 2006. I'll skip the comic alchemy. Instead, I'm reaffirming our, "seat of the pants" approach to publishing. No demographics, sales charts, audience polling, trend-chasing or second-guessing what our readers want. We read all our submissions and if there's something that strikes us as funny, clever or just plain entertaining, we're going to publish it. It's that simple. Well, sort of. We do have one tiny little secret. Keep this one under your hat, but our secret is we have an amazing readership. They just get it. Radio Comix fans crave something different, something a little off-beat and original. They're willing to work at finding what they want, either pre-ordering their comics from their retailer or taking the time to order it directly online. They're supportive, vocal and dedicated. Keeping our readers happy has always been our top priority. Without you we'd be sunk.

Did I mention that January was tricky? January is also the time I get called by other publishers. "Oh, what a terrible year!" they'll proclaim. "How does Radio Comix do it? Tell us your secret!" they'll plead.

I'll pause, then in a serious tone (and here's the tricky part) I'll whisper, "The Perfect Formula? IT'S REAL." without cracking a smile.



The Hot Spot

The stuff we were listening to, reading or playing with when we put these comics together!

Books

Nana vol. 1 by Ai Yazawa

Video Games

Star Wars: Battlefront II (Xbox) Animal Crossing: Wild World (Nintendo DS)

DVDs

Radio Comix Playlist

Serenity

The L Word Season 2

Various

Furrlough #150 406

You deserve a break today!

Various

407 Genus: Male #5

Make a run for the Border!

The Gang of Five

408 Ice Queens #1

Have it your way!

Various

409 Milk #51

Finger-Licking Good!

RADIO COMIX SKETCHBOOK



Here's a lovely detail of some promo art by Christina "Smudge" Hanson for the upcoming Dangerous vol. 2 #2! Look for it this March!

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JANUARY 2006 VOLUME ONE

ISSUE 5

COVER by Mark Gideon Parsons

THE PET SHOP BOYS: RENT: by Stangroom & Lowther

PAPER JAM: by Louie FurryWolfy

ILLUSTRATION: by DK Luis & Sanny Folkesson

INTERDIMENSIONAL TORTOISE: by DarkZel

ILLUSTRATION GALLERY: by Terrie Smith

GAME BOYS 3: ICARUS: by John Barrett

ILLUSTRATION GALLERY: by Honeyfox

THE PET SHOP BOYS: by Stangroom & Lowther

ILLUSTRATION GALLERY: by DK Luis

NEKO BOYZ: by Christina Smudge Hanson













" I WAS SURPRISED. I MEAN.

THIS WAS A GOOD-LOOKING





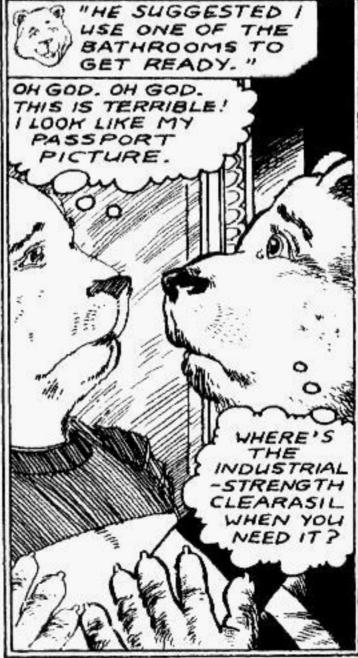


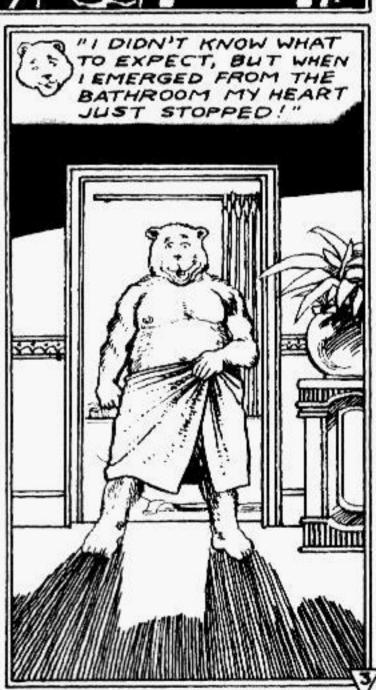












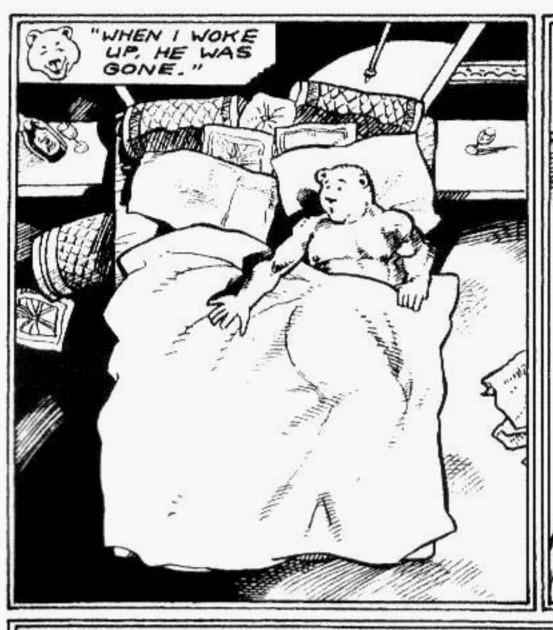
















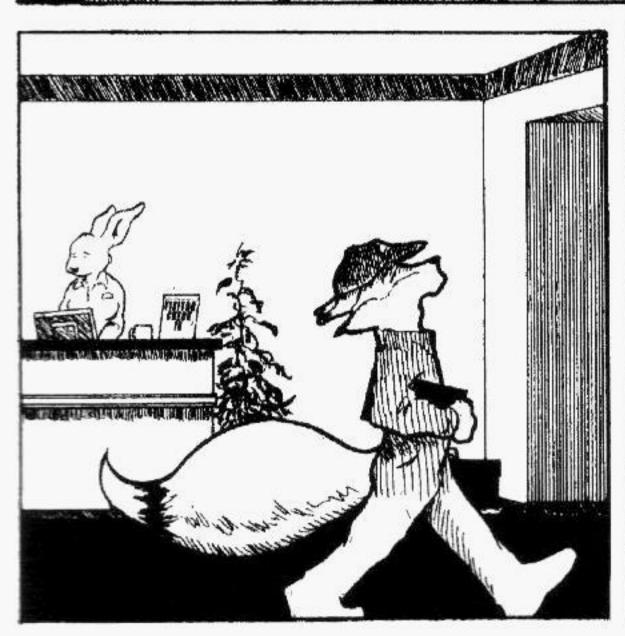






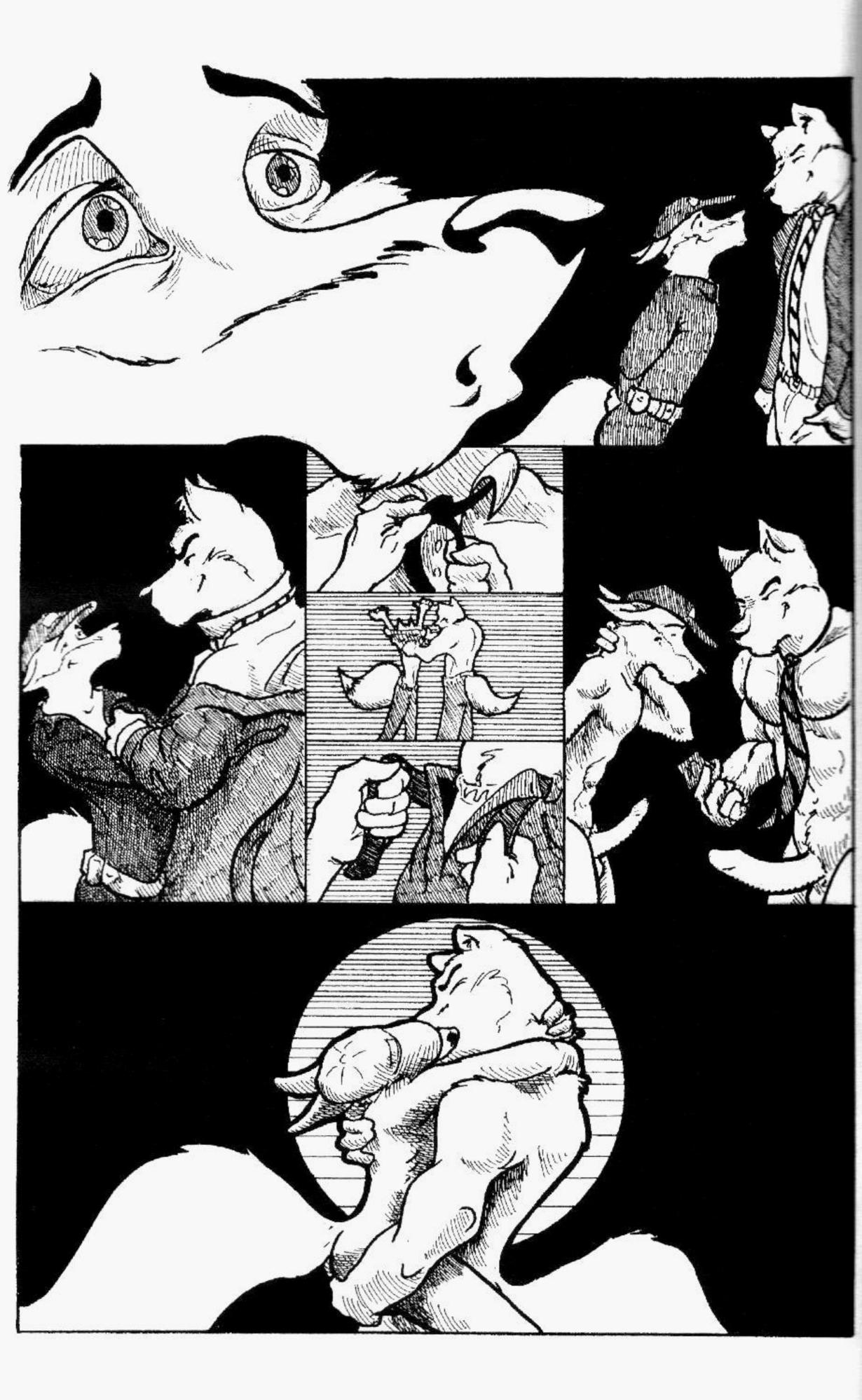


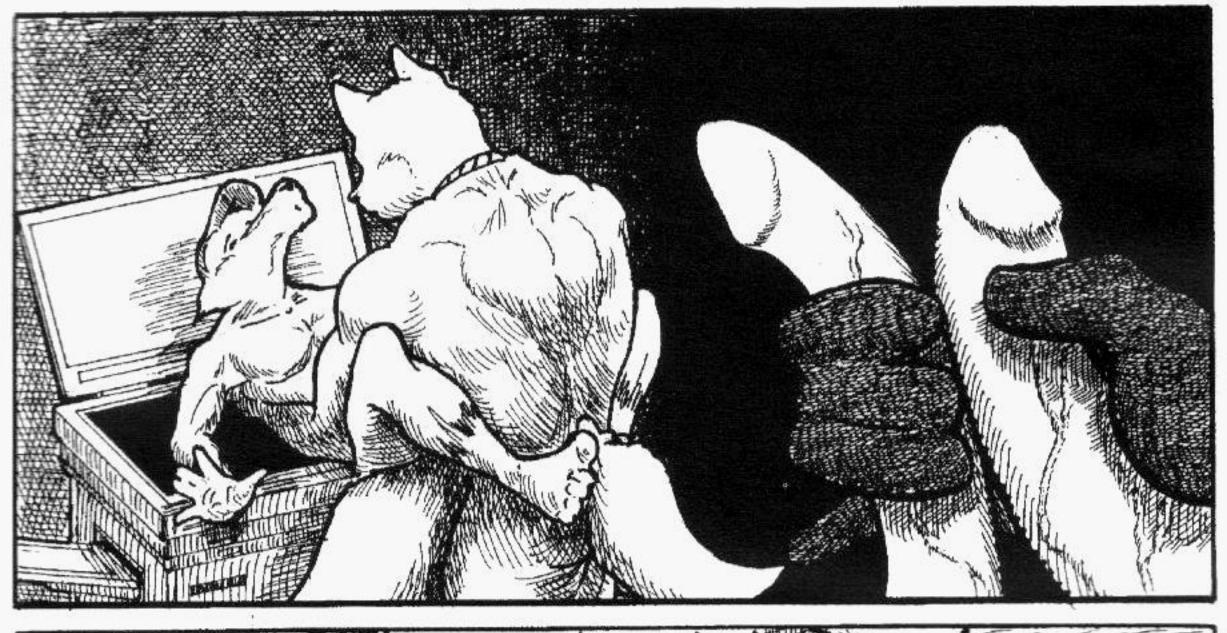


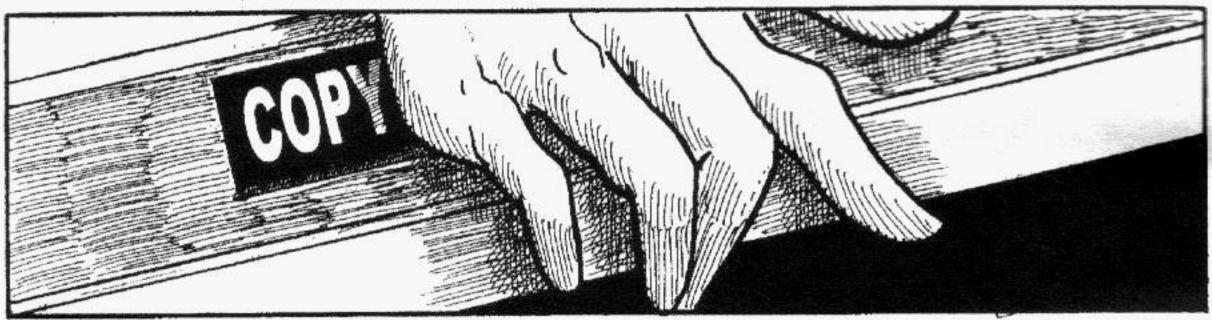




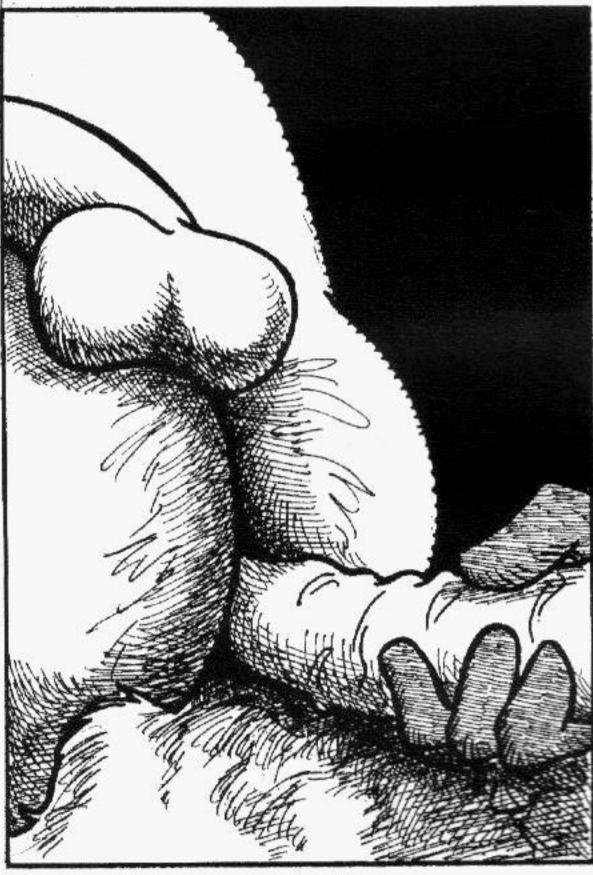


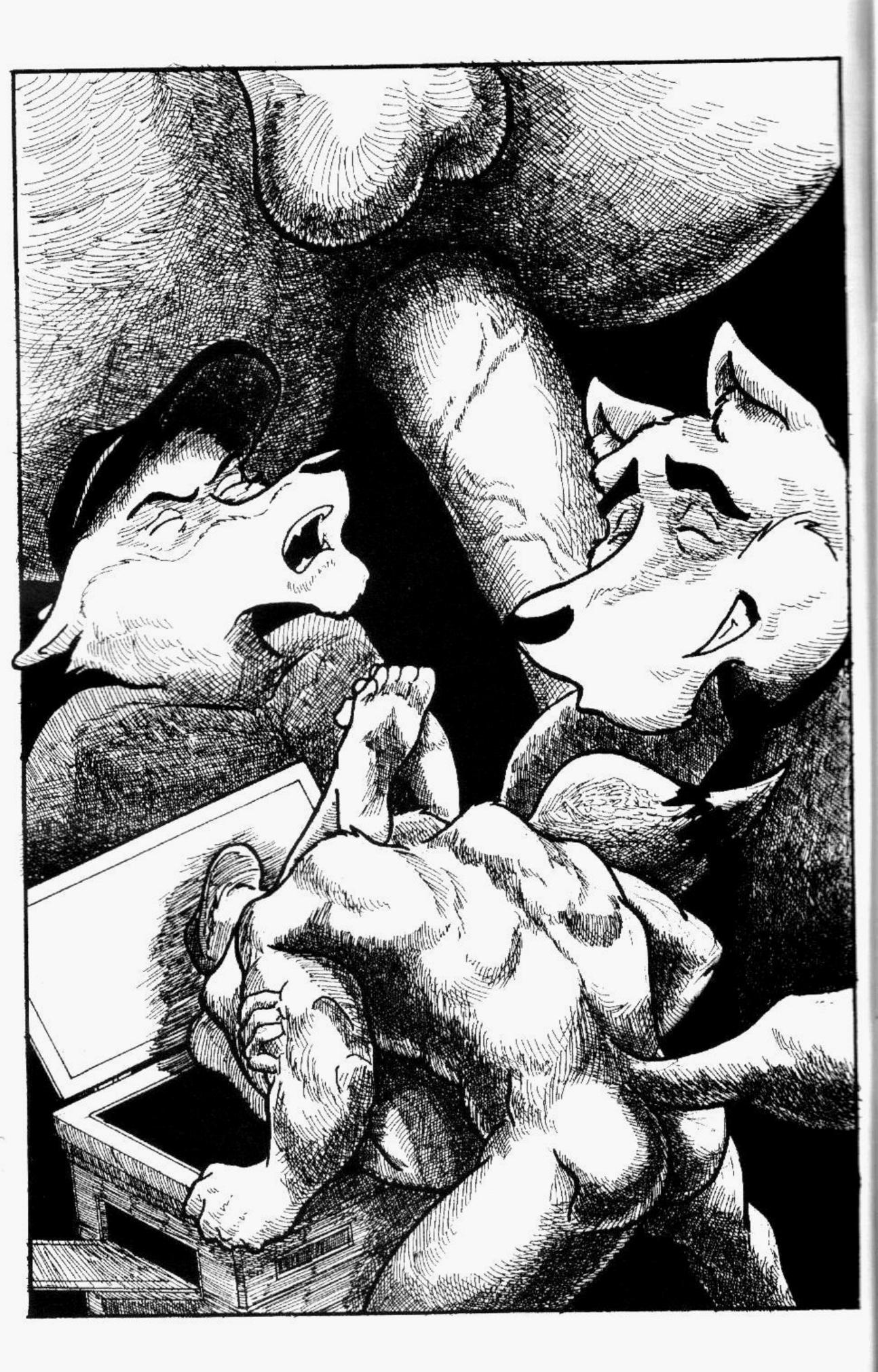


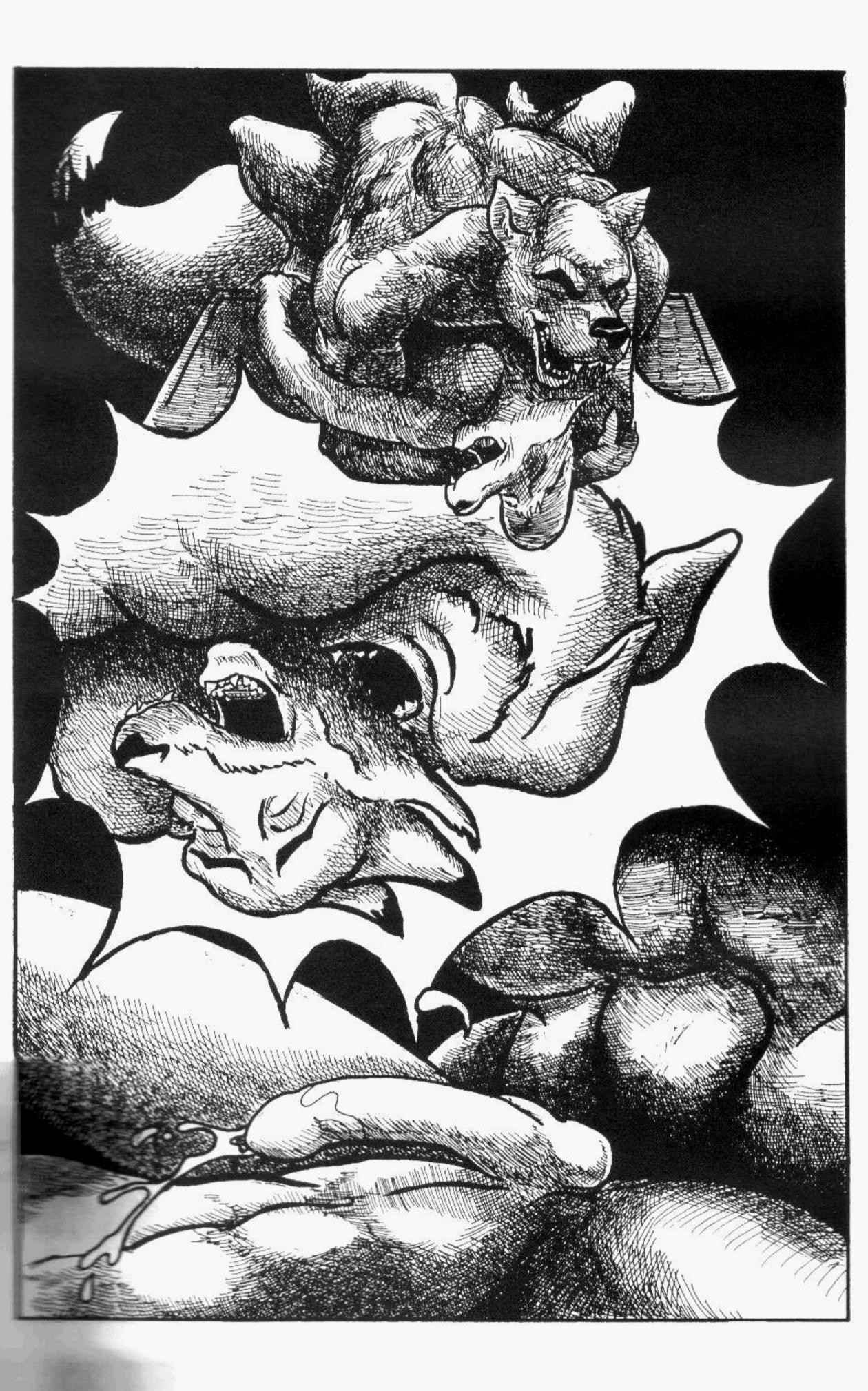




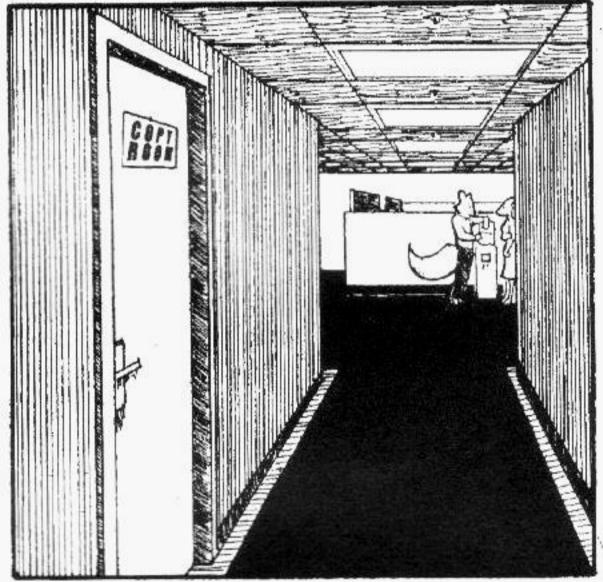


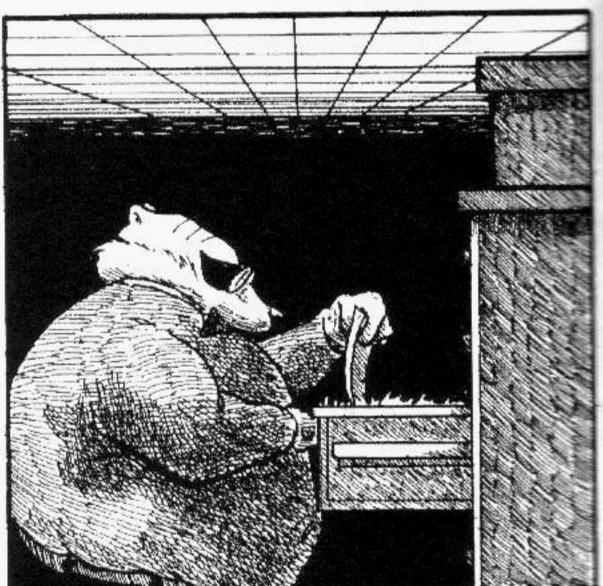


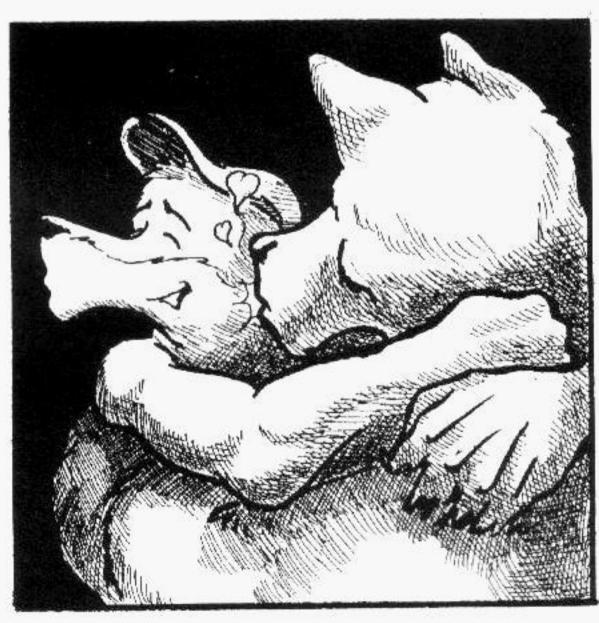




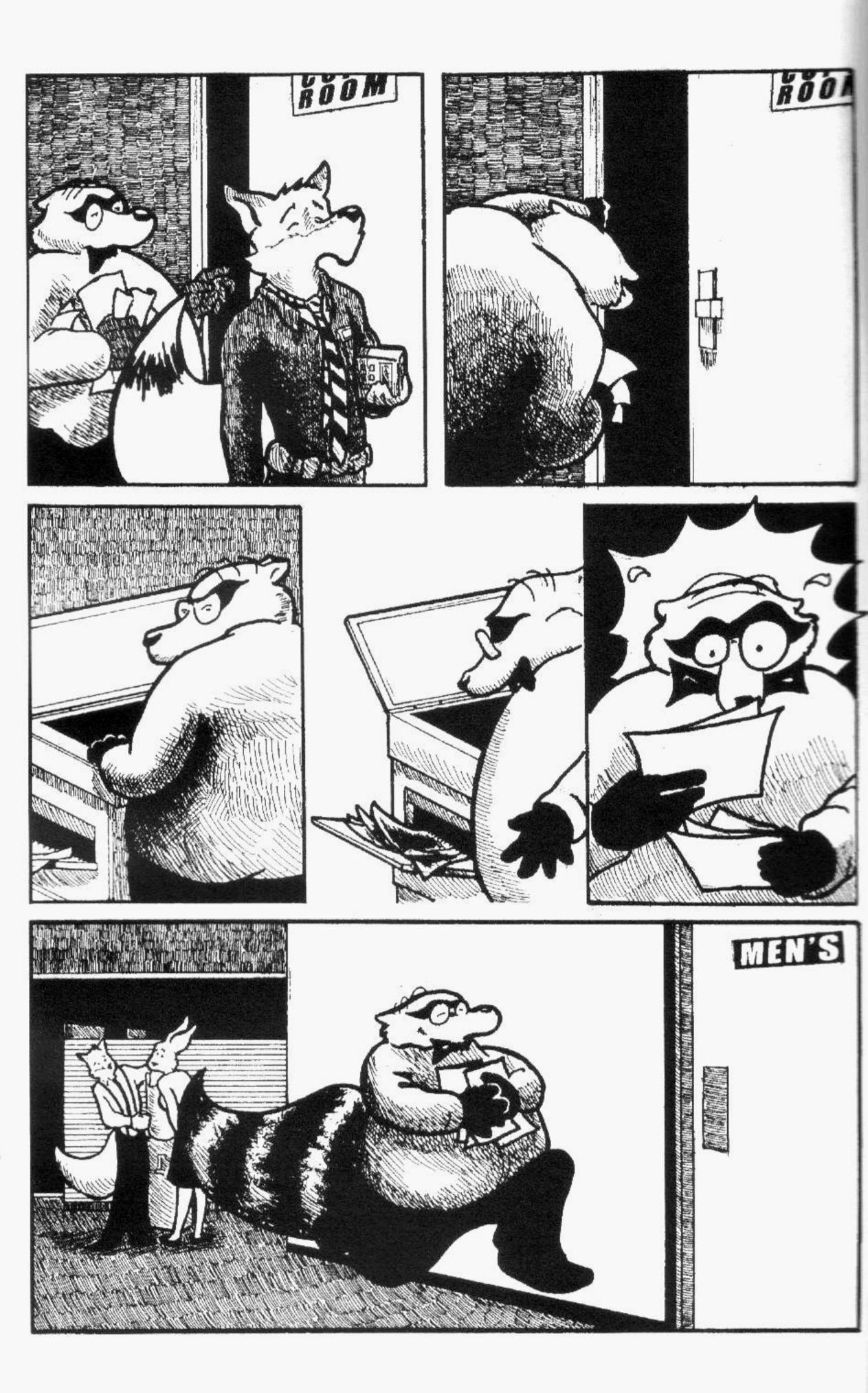




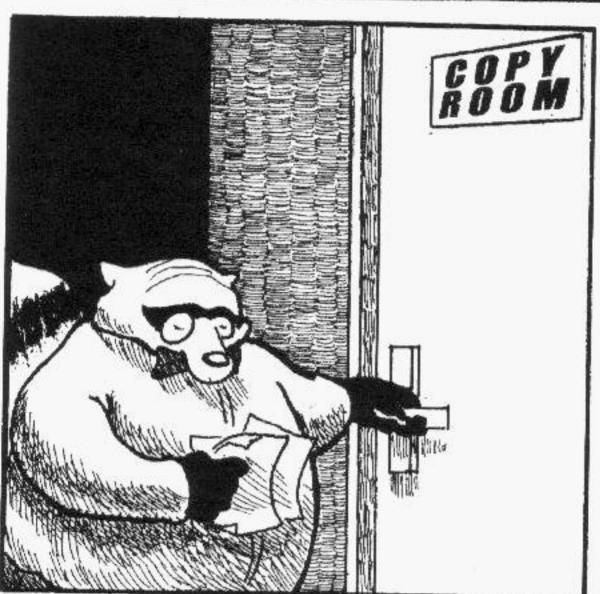


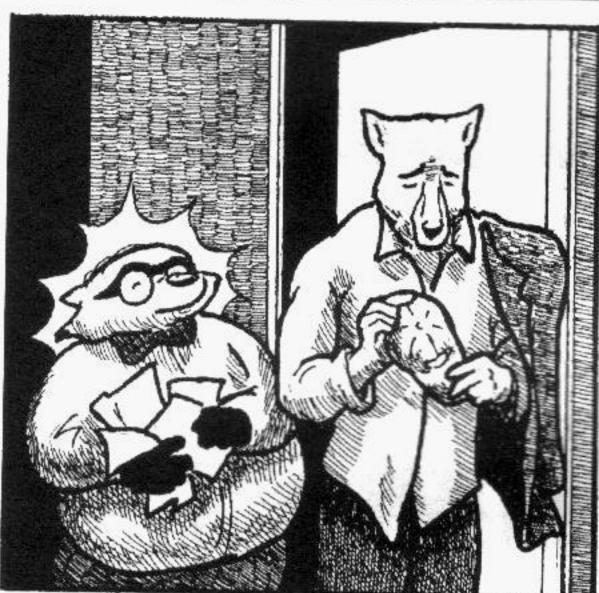


























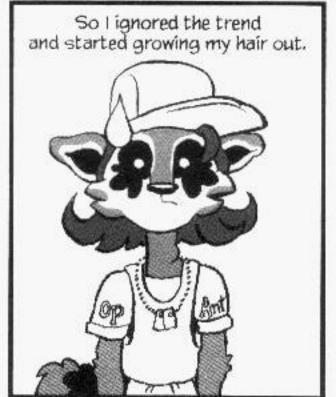








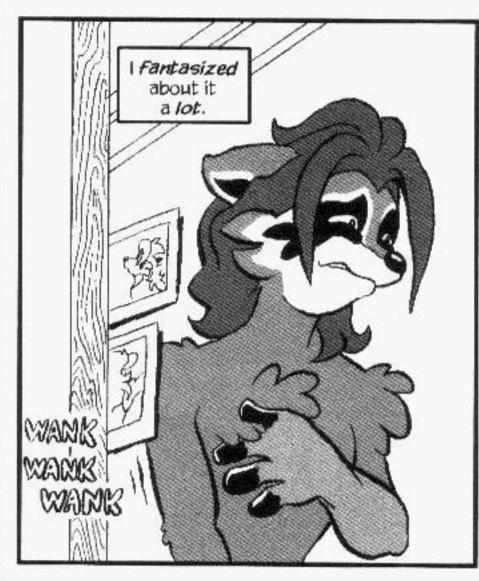




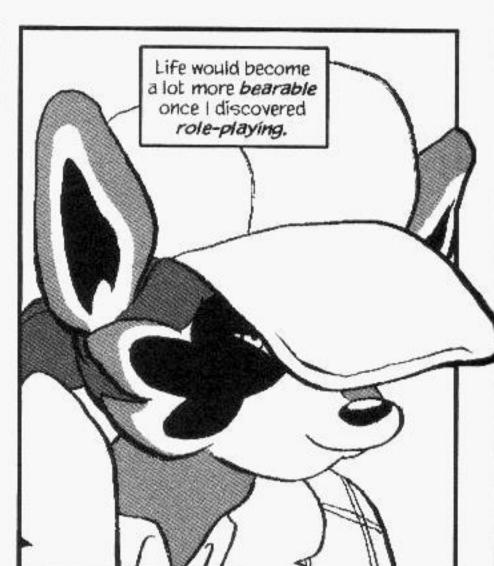
















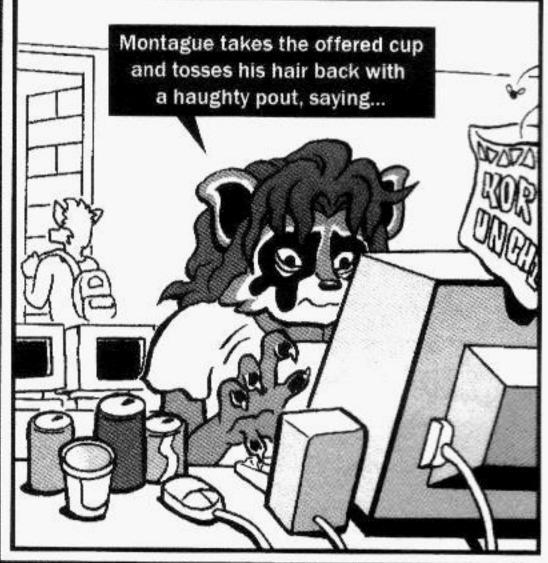
























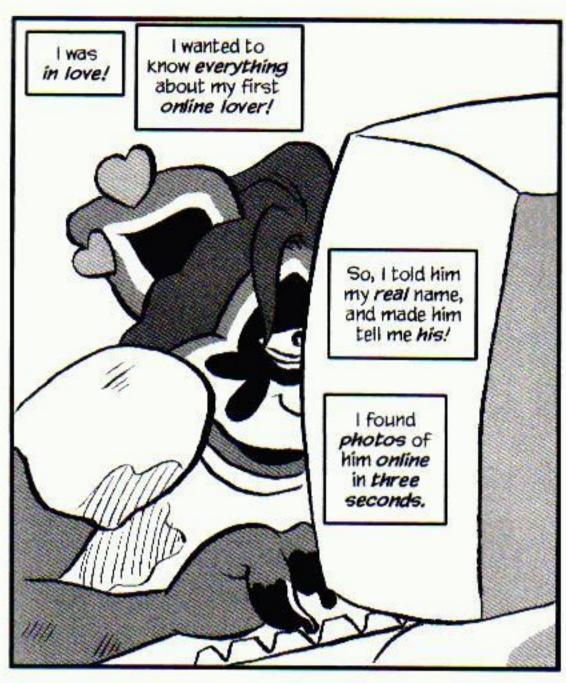


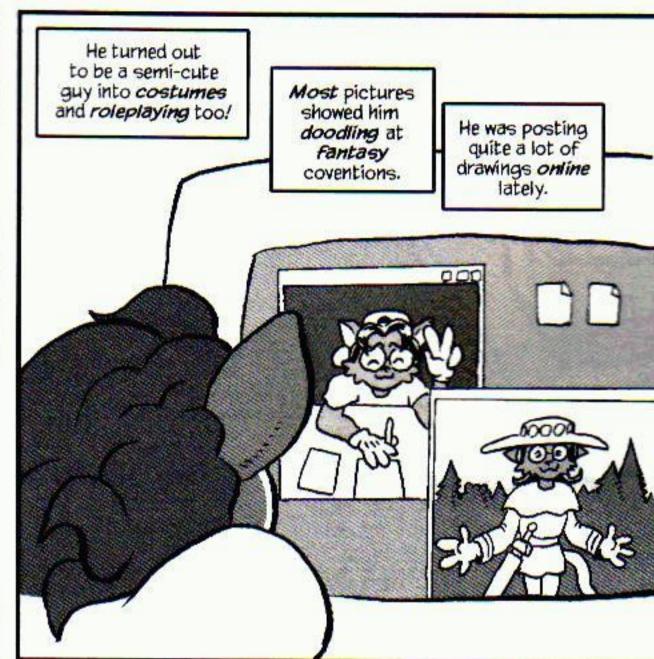




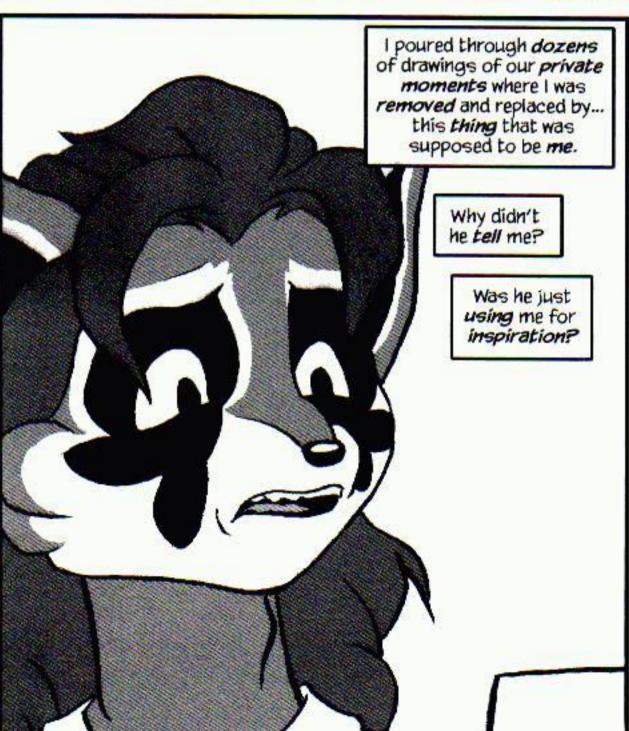










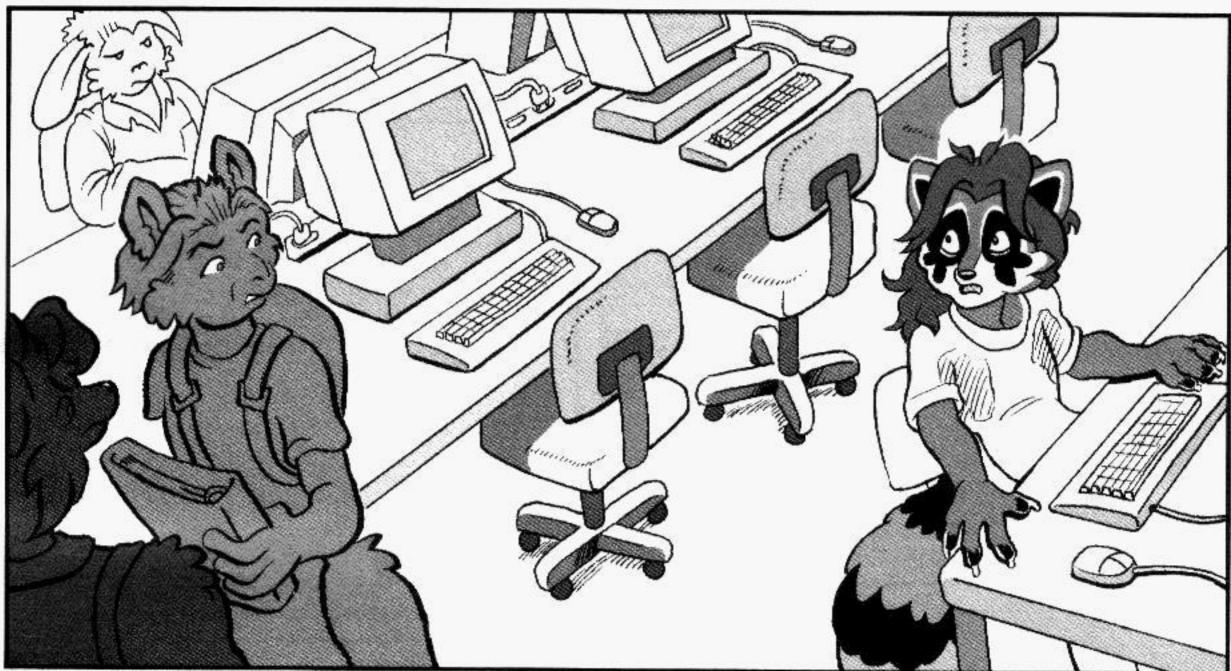




















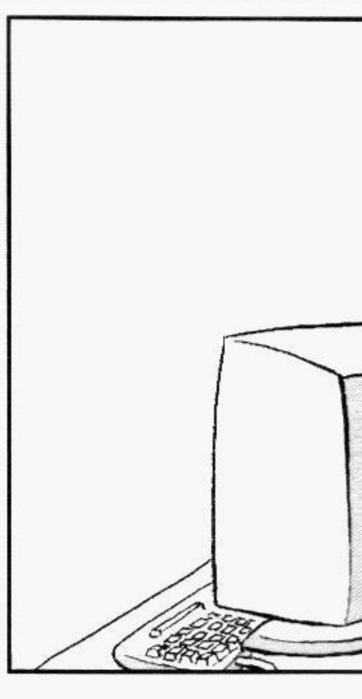








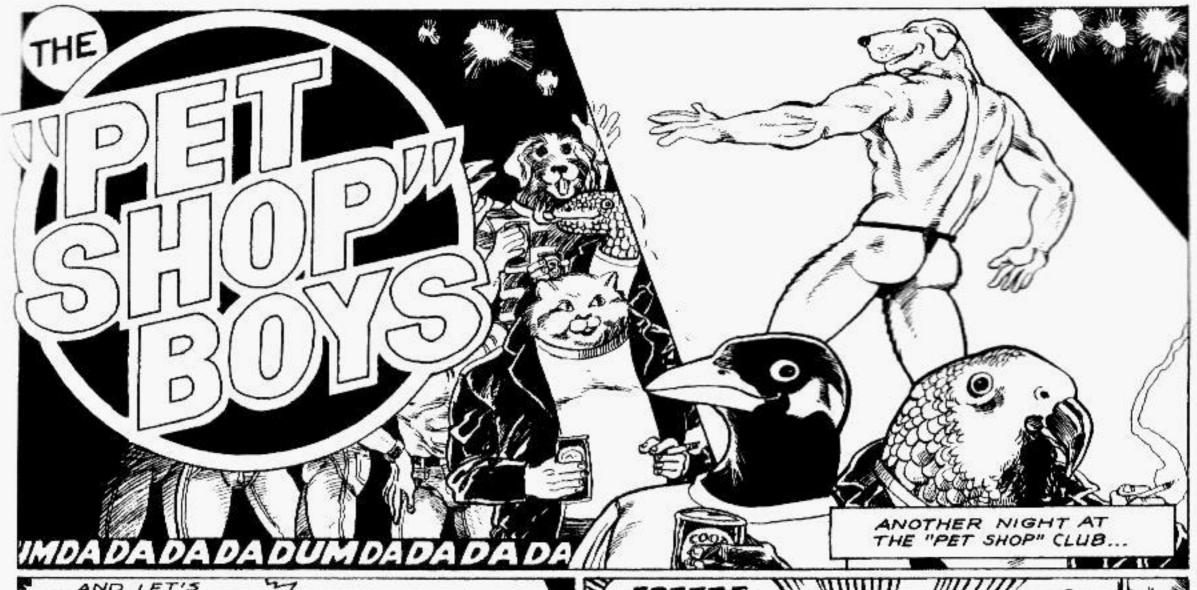




















OSTANGROOM & LOWTHER





The Difference between Dangerous & Genus Male

Dangerous Genus









Smudge 2005

